

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A gas diffusion electrode assembly comprising a plurality of gas diffusion electrodes, ~~characterized in that wherein adjacent gas diffusion electrodes are bonded together by a bonding piece, having wherein said bonding piece has on at least one surface a perfluorosulfonic acid layer, a perfluorosulfonyl fluoride layer or an alkyl ester of perfluorocarboxylic acid layer is placed at said perfluoro compound layer surface with respect to adjacent gas diffusion electrodes to bond said adjacent gas diffusion electrodes together by heat fusion bonding a layer selected from the group consisting of: a perfluorosulfonic acid compound layer, a perfluorosulfonyl fluoride compound layer or an alkyl ester of a perfluorocarboxylic acid compound layer and said bonding piece is bonded by heat fusion to said adjacent gas electrodes with said surface of said bonding piece on said adjacent gas electrodes.~~
2. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A bonding method for a gas diffusion electrode assembly comprising a plurality of gas diffusion electrodes, characterized in that a bonding piece having on at least one surface a perfluorosulfonic acid layer, a perfluorosulfonyl fluoride layer or an alkyl ester of perfluorocarboxylic acid layer is placed at said perfluoro compound layer surface with respect to both adjacent gas diffusion electrodes to bond the respective gas diffusion electrodes to said bonding piece by heat fusion bonding.
3. (Withdrawn) A bonding method for a gas diffusion electrode assembly, characterized in that a covering sheet is covered on a junction where gas diffusion electrodes are bonded together, and an adhesive composition containing a corrosion-resistant synthetic resin is coated on said covering sheet for bonding.

4. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The bonding method for a gas diffusion electrode assembly according to claim 3, characterized in that either one of the surface surfaces of said junction to be bonded to said covering sheet and the surface of said covering sheet to be bonded to said junction, is previously impregnated with a corrosion-resistant synthetic resin containing solution having a synthetic resin concentration lower than that of said adhesive composition containing a corrosion-resistant synthetic resin.

5. (Withdrawn) The bonding method for a gas diffusion electrode assembly according to claim 3, characterized in that a filling agent is filled in a gap formed between said gas diffusion electrodes and said covering sheet.

6. (Withdrawn) The bonding method for a gas diffusion electrode assembly according to claim 3, characterized in that said covering sheet is microporous on at least the surface thereof.

7. (Withdrawn) The bonding method for a gas diffusion electrode assembly according to claim 3, characterized in that said corrosion-resistant synthetic resin is a homopolymer or copolymer of tetrafluoroethylene.

8. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) An electrolyzer comprising a gas diffusion electrode assembly, characterized in that a periphery of an electrode surface opposite to the opposite polarity side of said gas diffusion electrode assembly is airtightly bonded to a frame form of bonding member, a surface of a junction of at least a bonding frame of said frame form of bonding member with said gas diffusion electrode assembly is provided with a perfluorosulfonic acid layer, a perfluorosulfonyl fluoride layer or an alky alkyl ester of perfluorocarboxylic acid layer, and a periphery of said frame form of bonding member is stacked thereon via a gasket.

9. (Withdrawn) The electrolyzer comprising a gas diffusion electrode assembly according to claim 8, characterized in that said frame form of bonding member is provided with a plurality of bonding frame blocks, to each of which a gas diffusion electrode is bonded.

10. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The ~~electrolyzer~~ electrolyzer comprising a gas diffusion electrode assembly according to claim 9, characterized in that said frame form of bonding member is formed in a seamless, integral manner.

11. (Withdrawn) A sealing method for a gas diffusion electrode assembly, characterized in that a sealing material containing an electrically conductive carbonaceous material and a fluororesin is filled in a junction of gas diffusion electrodes, so that said sealing material is heat treated for bonding.

12. (Withdrawn) The sealing method for a gas diffusion electrode assembly according to claim 11, characterized in that at said junction of gas diffusion electrodes, a collector is exposed on a periphery thereof.

13. (Withdrawn) The sealing method for a gas diffusion electrode assembly according to claim 11, characterized in that said sealing material is composed of the same constituent as the constituent of either one of a gas supply layer or a reactive layer of the gas diffusion electrodes to be bonded together.

14. (Withdrawn) The sealing method for a gas diffusion electrode assembly according to claim 11, characterized in that said sealing material contains a catalyst substance in a gas diffusion electrode.

15. (Withdrawn) The sealing method for a gas diffusion electrode assembly according to claim 11, characterized in that the junction of a gas diffusion electrode is a junction of said gas

diffusion electrode with a cathode chamber collector frame, and a gap between said gas diffusion electrode and said cathode chamber collector frame is sealed up.

16. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The sealing method for a gas diffusion electrode assembly according to claim 11, characterized in that the junction of a gas diffusion electrode is a junction of said gas diffusion electrode with ~~an adjacent~~ a gas diffusion electrode adjacent thereto, and a gap between adjacent gas diffusion electrodes is sealed up.

17. (Withdrawn) A repairing method for a gas diffusion electrode, characterized in that a sealing material containing an electrically conductive carbonaceous material and a fluororesin is filled in a defective portion of said gas diffusion electrode, so that said defective portion is repaired by heat treatment of said sealing material.

18. (NEW) The gas diffusion electrode assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the perfluorosulfonic acid compound layer, or a perfluorosulfonyl fluoride compound layer comprises an acid type ion-exchange group.